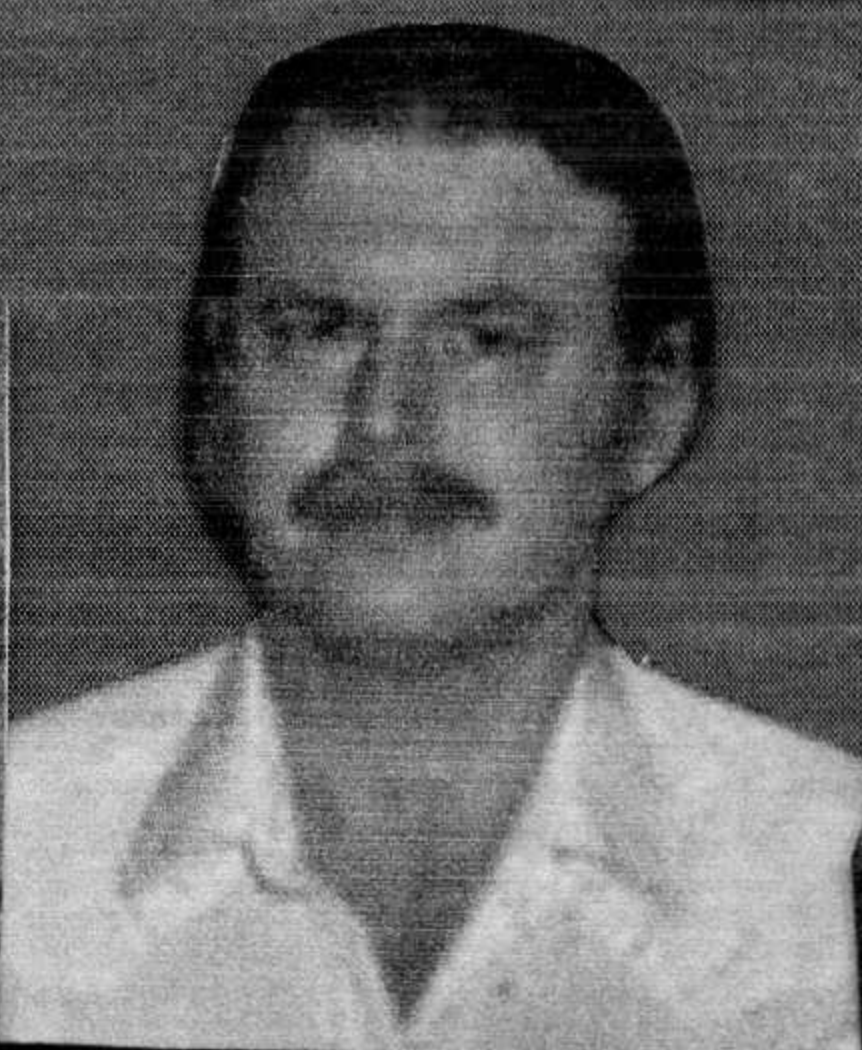
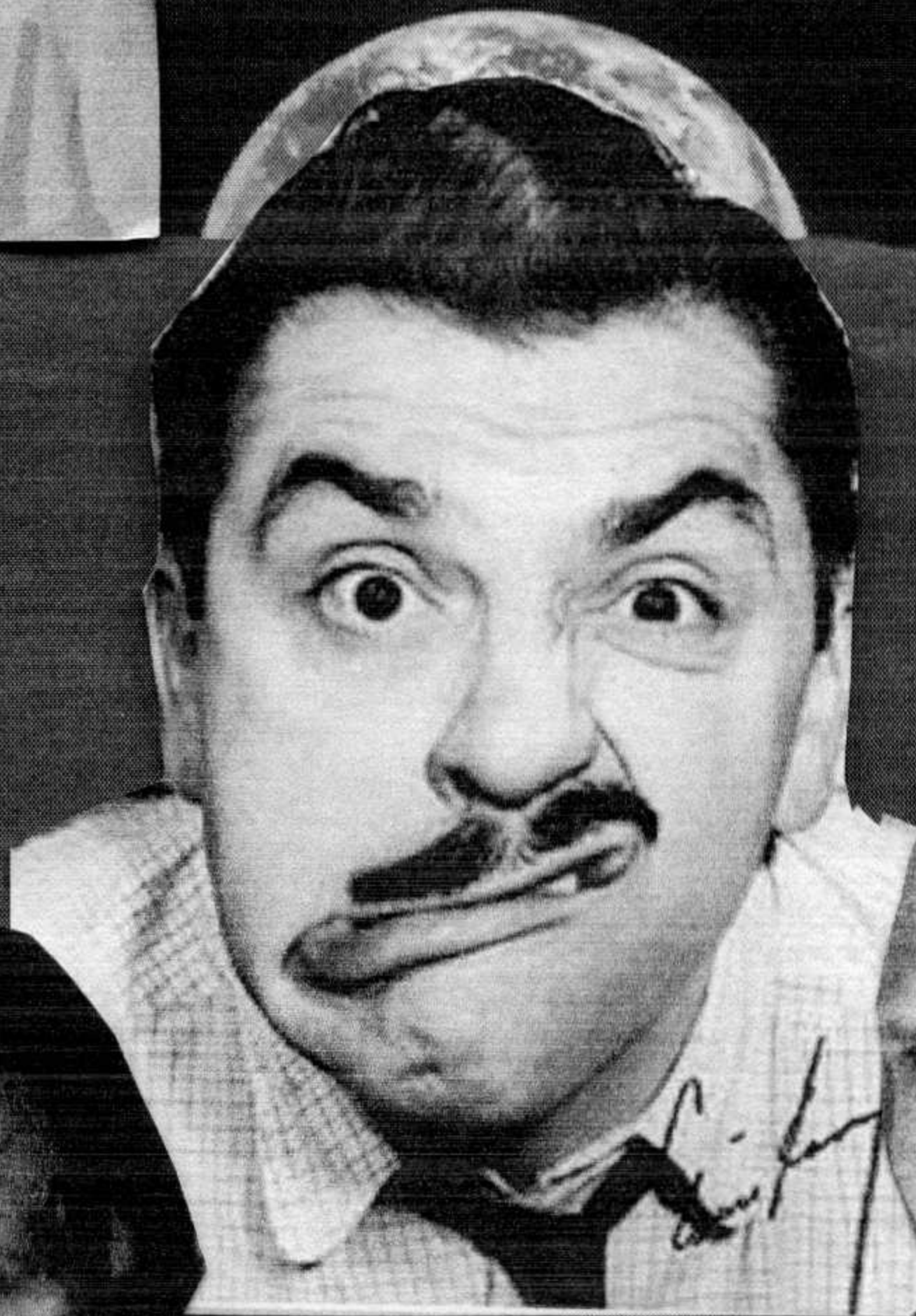


HUMDINGER

ISSUE 3

SUSPICIOUSLY FREE!



CURSES FROM THE EDITOR

HUMDINGER

NUMBER 3

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CRIPES! EGADS! CURSES! DRAT!

DOUBLE DRAT! Another issue of *Humdinger*?!!!? Oof, how could this be? Well, I was admittedly tickled various shades of pink by the glowing yet overwhelmingly meager responses to the previous issue. As it turns out, even a scant few specks of white gas can indeed reignite the dying embers of a paralyzingly anxious and self-critical fire! So, without any request or demand, here for your apathy is *Humdinger* #3!!!

Fie, fie on you all! What bedevilling bedazzlements from whence I've washed out with my bidet await you? YOU WILL RUE THE MILLISECOND IT TOOK YOUR BRAIN TO LAUGH IN THE CONSTIPATED FACE OF COMMON DECENCY! In this issue (and in most issues) "humor" will take main stage, maniacally mugging

in the spotlight until an oversized sheepherder's hook protrudes from behind the curtain and violently yanks "humor" off stage by neck. Everything from books to TV to movies to comedy albums will be showcased and scrutinized. There will be *another* playlist (*sigh*).

Even an original humor piece or two! A four panel comic, you tease? *THE JAGGED FANGS OF A THOUSAND LESSER IMPS WILL STAIN YOUR TOOTHBRUSH WITH BLACK TAR HEROIN IF YOU*

READ THIS ZINE!!!

XOXO

Vance Kimball

The Day Josh Gad Saved My Bow-Wow Puppy Dog



Josh Gad,

I need to thank you. The last few years have been a...skosh rocky. My three identical triplet daughters somehow disappeared down a sinkhole in our backyard I had repaired beyond a doubt with several layers of Saran wrap. As they were my employees at our Corned Beef Hash-exclusive restaurant, my business quickly went under. And of course there was that leprosy scare. To say at that moment I felt like I was at rock bottom is a laughable understatement! Ha ha! HA! Just when I thought life couldn't get any worse, my brother (Kumquat, the Dog-Boy) was shot by, get this, an actual dog. Dog eat dog? More like dog shoot dog-boy. Unbeknownst to me while I was cradling my dog-boy brother's hypertrichosis-riddled body in my arms, Josh Gad, a vigilant passerby, pursued the pugnacious pooch perpetrator, bringing the canine to justice. Josh Gad was under no obligation to come to our aid, but he pulled the bullet out of my dog-boy brother's collarbone anyway. Josh, neither of us will ever be able to repay you. All I can hope is that these words of sincere and resolute thanks reassure you of not only your general magnanimity, but your honored place in the annals of both human, canine, and canine-human hybrid history. Thanks for everything, chum!

*****FAVORITE NOVELTY SONGS*****

"Fish Heads" / Barnes & Barnes

"The Ballad of Bilbo Baggins" / Leonard Nimoy

"John and Marsha" / Stan Freberg

"Dead Puppies" / Ogden EdsI

"The Homecoming Queen's Got a Gun" / Julie Brown

"Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" / William Shatner

"Poisoning Pigeons in the Park" / Tom Lehrer

"Singing in the Bathtub" / R. Crumb & His Cheap Suit

Serenaders

"Livin' in the Sunlight, Lovin' in the Moonlight" /

Tiny Tim

"Lydia, The Tattooed Lady" / Groucho Marx

"Monster Mash" / Bobby "Boris" Pickett

"Short People" / Randy Newman

"Rubber Biscuit" / The Chips

"Ain' t Got No Home" / Clarence "Frogman" Henry

"A Hard Day's Night" / Peter Sellers

"Foxtrot Uniform Charlie Kilo" / Bloodhound Gang

"Foux Du Fafa" / Flight of the Conchords

"I'm So Humble" / The Lonely Island

"You Can't Rollerskate in a Buffalo Herd" / Roger
Miller

"Dirty Old Egg-Sucking Dog" / Johnny Cash

"Take the Skinheads Bowling" / Camper Van Beethoven

"Downtown" / Mrs. Miller

"The Alphabet Song" / The Three Stooges

"Cheese and Onions" / The Rutles

"Old Joe's Place" / The Folkmen

"My Bologna" / Weird Al Yankovic

"Mah Na Mah Na" / The Muppets



3 Affordable Amusement Park Alternatives This Summer

Like most institutions, cultural or otherwise, amusement parks operate under the guise of universal accessibility. With the amount of advertisements the public is bombarded with showcasing their chills and thrills, one could surmise all that's required to partake in their high-octane wonderments are some adrenal glands and a howling wolf t-shirt. ALAS! 'Tis a strong stomach and a bulging wallet which are the true preconditions. So what is a poor, dirt-speckled urchin and their tribe of fellow slack-jawed troglodytes to do to experience death/defying titillation on the cheap? Well, look no further, readers with low-vaulted craniums and prominently ridged brows! Here are three (3) thrifty alternatives to an amusement park that won't break the bank!

1. **Ride the escalators at Barnes & Noble**

Up and down. Up and down. Just like a merry go round. Go ahead! These machines are German, notorious for their dependability and cheap replacement parts! And, according to a particularly jaded escalator repairman with the blackest eyes I've ever seen, you may even get to see a dog sucked into the gears! Try reading *that* in a book!

2. **Jump off the roof of Aunt Krystal's trailer home**

Quick, while she's arguing the salient points of naming her future child "Four Loko" with your mom! Who needs a drop tower to enter free-fall when your brother can push you off a both trendy and mobile domicile? Watch out for the pink flamingos and dog bombs!

3. **Throw dead vapes at oncoming cars and defenseless animals**

Roller Coasters are so old hat! And so are rocks. Whether you're tossing them from above the freeway during rush hour or simply chucking them across the street at your neighbor's ever-yapping three-legged charity case of a dog, this'll be more fun than just throwing them away for your older sister.

COMICAL COMIX

R. CRUMB

Okay, let's just get this one outta the way real quick. Helped kick off the underground comix movement. Transformed comics from tired superhero tales to an introspective art form. New bio out in print!

Zippy by Bill Griffith

Inspired by an actor from the cult film *Freaks* (1932), Zippy spews non-sense and wears a clown suit with the best of them. "Are we having fun yet?"

SIMON HANSELMANN

Group of friends get high and avoid their emotions in his sitcom-like comics.

DREW FRIEDMAN

Master caricaturist. His work might not appeal to people who find warts and liver spots distasteful.

Krazy Kat by George Herriman

Ignatz the mouse eternally rebuffs the affection of misguided Krazy Kat.

HATE by Peter Bagge

Cynical slacker Buddy Bradley pursues broads, books, and beer in the '90s.

Popeye by E.C. Segar

Charles M. Schulz said, "I think *Popeye* was a perfect comic strip, consistent in drawing and humor."

KIM DEITCH

Key figure of '60s underground comix movement. Uses the character Waldo the Cat.

Nancy by Ernie Bushmiller

The outré shenanigans of eight-year-old Nancy and her rascally friend Sluggo.

DANIEL CLOWES

Known for *Eightball* and a story therein which was adapted for the screen, *Ghost World*.

JOE MATT

Wrote the autobiographical series *Peepshow* which examined his poor social skills, Catholic trauma, addiction to pornography, his relationships, and artistic struggles.

JOHNNY RYAN

The king of shock, obscenity, and political incorrectness.

American Splendor by Harvey Pekar

Depicts Pekar's everyday life in Cleveland, OH as he obsessively collects records and has experiences with his wife and off-kilter friends.



My sweet, delicious,
succulent, breathtaking
tulip! How I've missed
you so!



SWOON

I've gotta "hand" it to you,
my darling: you sure do
have a way with words.
Now, stick out that tush
and let me do the talking!



Ah, sweet petunia!
Put your hand in mine,
and let us take a buggy
ride thru Central Park!



Dude, I just went to
the fridge...



FUNNIEST FILMS

Harold and Maude (1971)

Duck Soup (1933)

Female Trouble (1974)

Pee-wee's Big Adventure (1985)

Hellzapoppin' (1941)

Monty Python and The Holy Grail
(1975)

The Bank Dick (1940)

It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World
(1963)

Safety Last! (1923)

The Court Jester (1956)

Young Frankenstein (1975)

The Big Lebowski (1998)

It's Such a Beautiful Day (2012)

Bringing Up Baby (1938)

FUNNIEST TV SHOWS

Futurama

(1999-2003, 2008-2013, 2023-)

The Simpsons (1989-)

King of the Hill (1997-2010)

Regular Show (2010-2017)

SpongeBob SquarePants (1999-)

The Ren & Stimpy Show
(1991-1996)

SCTV (1976-1984)

Looney Tunes (1930-1969)

So, I know this one isn't technically a TV show, but they've been shown on TV for so long it might as well be. Unbeatable zaniness, physical rubberiness, and self-aware absurdity.

30 Rock (2006-2013)

Tim & Eric Awesome Show, Great Job! (2007-2010)

MUST-READS FOR CHRONIC CHORTLERS

DOUGLAS ADAMS

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (1979)

The sole-survivor of the destruction of Earth suffers a series of space misadventures in relation to the "meaning" of the Universe. I try to read this book at least once a year. One of the funniest novels of all time.

JONATHAN AMES

My Less Than Secret Life (2002)

I Love You More Than You Know (2006)

Gutsy confessionals and recollections of Ames' childhood blunders and adulthood sexual escapades. Similar to: Charles Bukowski, Philip Roth, Chuck Palahniuk.

SHALOM AUSLANDER

Beware of God: Stories (2005)

Foreskin's Lament (2007)

Hope: A Tragedy (2012)

Mother For Dinner (2020)

"Raised like veal" in a strict Orthodox Jewish neighborhood, Auslander has channeled his pent-up rage and rebellion into a series of gut-bustingly hilarious novels, stories, and memoirs. Similar to: David Sedaris, Franz Kafka, Groucho Marx.

RICHARD AYOADE

Ayoade on Ayoade (2014)

The Grip of Film (2017)

Ayoade on Top (2019)

The Unfinished Harauld Hughes (2024)

Known for his roles on the sitcoms *The IT Crowd* and *Garth Marenghi's DarkPlace* and directing the film *Submarine*. Nonsensical, British sensibility to his writing like *The Mighty Boosh* and Monty Python.

AUGUSTEN BURROUGHS

Running with Scissors (2002)

Frank coming-of-age memoir of a teenage boy who, following his parents' divorce and his mother's mental illness, is sent to live in the home of his mother's therapist with other recovering mental patients.

FREDERICK EXLEY

A Fan's Notes (1968)

"*A Fan's Notes* is a sardonic account of mental illness, alcoholism, insulin shock therapy and electroconvulsive therapy, and the black hole of sports fandom."

JONATHAN GOLDSTEIN

Lenny Bruce Is Dead (2001)

Ladies and Gentlemen, The Bible! (2009)

I'll Seize the Day Tomorrow (2012)

Author, humorist, and radio producer. Often characterized by a particularly Jewish sense of anxiety, although he is not to be confused with Woody Allen as Mr. Goldstein is not married to his adopted daughter. Plus, he's Canadian.

MUST-READS FOR CHRONIC CHORTLERS

JACK HANDEY

Deep Thoughts (1983-)

*What I'd Say to the Martians
and Other Veiled Threats* (2008)

The Stench of Honolulu (2013)

Writer of absurd, deadpan one-liners featured on *SNL* in the 1990s. Has written for Steve Martin, *National Lampoon*, and *The New Yorker*. Check out his humor pieces and novels.

JOHN HODGMAN

The Areas of My Expertise (2005)

That Is All (2011)

Side-splitting satirical almanacs with sections that include "The Furry Old Lobster," "The 51 United States," and a list of 700 hobo names.

JEROME K. JEROME

Three Men In A Boat (1889)

Comic travel-novel which follows The narrator, J., two friends, and Montmorency, J.'s dog as they whimsically embark on a boating holiday down the River Thames.

DOUGLAS KENNEY & HENRY BEARD

Bored of the Rings (1969)

Before they founded the wildly influential *National Lampoon* magazine, precocious pair pulled-off a parody equally as epic as its source material. Transporting the late-60s hippie movement into a slapstick fantasy world, we meet Dildo Bugger

and his ring-bearing nephew, Frito, slinking creature Goddam, and Arrowroot, son of Arrowshirt. Still in print 50 years later, uncommon for a parody novel.

DANIIL KHARMS

Today I Wrote Nothing (2009)

Russian writer, poet, and playwright of the early Soviet-era avant-garde and Absurdist movements. Wrote vignettes that depicted poverty juxtaposed with surreal occurrences and abrupt endings. Writing largely restricted to children's literature due to government censorship and persecution. Arrested in 1941 for spreading "libellous and defeatist mood". Died in prison from starvation during the siege of Leningrad. His manuscripts were saved by friends and family and began to be published in the 1960s.

FRAN LEBOWITZ

The Fran Lebowitz Reader (1994)

Like a hybrid of Dorothy Parker and Oscar Wilde, this book collects her two essay collections, *Metropolitan Life* (1978) and *Social Studies* (1981). Supplement this reader with her appearances on *Late Night with David Letterman* and see her on her lecture tour at the first opportunity. Advocate of cigarettes.

MARK LEYNER

I Smell Esther Williams and Other Stories (1983)

My Cousin, My Gastroenterologist (1990)

MUST-READS FOR CHRONIC CHORTLERS

Et Tu, Babe (1992)

Tooth Imprints on a Corndog (1996)

"Imagine Beavis and Butt-head morphed with William S. Burroughs...hilarious... laugh-out-loud funny."-*New York Times*

JOE ORTON

Head to Toe (1959)

Entertaining Mr. Sloane (1964)

Loot (1965)

English playwright, author, and diarist known for his brief but pivotal career from 1964-67, prior to being murdered by his partner. Wrote a series of cynical and provocative black comedies for the stage. As a teen, Orton chronicled in his diary (in shorthand so his Mother couldn't read it) his sexual dalliances with other men. After lapsing from a promising acting career with his partner and fellow lapsed actor, they wrote a string of unpublished novels. Out of boredom & a lack of work, the pair began to deface and modify library books with sexually suggestive covers and obscene blurbs. They were later prosecuted and imprisoned. Prior to his death, Orton wrote a script for The Beatles. Also check out *Prick Up Your Ears* (1987) with Gary Oldman & Alfred Molina.

DOROTHY PARKER

The Portable Dorothy Parker (1944)

Although she detested her "wise-

cracker reputation, her caustic wit has thus far stood the test of time. One of the founding editors of *The New Yorker*. For fans of black humor, failed romances, and unsuccessful suicide attempts.

S.J. PERELMAN

The Most of S. J. Perelman (1980)

Considered to be the first surrealist humorist of the United States. Wrote short form pieces that employed witty self-deprecation, non-sequiturs, obscure words and references, parody, wordplay, and sense of the absurd and ridiculous. Perelman wrote two Marx Bros. feature films, *Monkey Business* (1931) and *Horse Feathers* (1932), as well as the Oscar-winning script to *Around the World in 80 Days* (1956). Helped *Catch-22* skyrocket to fame by giving it generous praise.

NEAL POLLACK

The Neal Pollack Anthology of American Literature (2000)

A collection of magazine pieces bubbling over with a satiric machismo that would've, had Hemingway read it, driven him to suicide from envy. This book brought laugh-induced tears to me eyes, but laugh-induced urine trickling down the legs of my pantaloons!

CHARLES PORTIS

Norwood (1966)

True Grit (1968)

MUST-READS FOR CHRONIC CHORTLERS

The Dog of the South (1979)

Masters of Atlantis (1985)

"Charles Portis is now recognized as singular American genius, a writer whose deadpan style, picaresque plots, and unforgettable characters have drawn a passionate following among readers and writers."

-Jay Jennings

True Grit has twice been adapted for the silver screen, with John Wayne and Glen Campbell, and then by the Coen Bros. with Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon, Hailee Steinfeld, and Josh Brolin.

SIMON RICH

Spoiled Brats (2014)

Hits & Misses (2018)

New Teeth (2021)

Former president of the *Harvard Lampoon*, he was hired at *SNL* out of college, wrote for Pixar and *The Simpsons*. Author of numerous story collections including *Hits & Misses* which won the Thurber Prize for American Humor. Created the show *Miracle Workers* based on his novel *What in God's Name* (2012). A mix of Woody Allen, Roald Dahl, and Mel Brooks.

DAVID SEDARIS

Barrel Fever (1994)

Naked (1997)

Me Talk Pretty (2001)

What else is there to say about this guy? His writing speaks for him. Read the story in *Barrel Fever* wherein he tells all the dirty details of his dalliances with big screen giant Charlton Heston and thick-necked pugilist Mike Tyson. Sock me in the eye if it doesn't produce hysterical tears in yours.

IAN SHOALES

I Gotta Go: The Commentary of Ian Shoales (1985)

The "acerbic social critic" famously heard on NPR's *All Things Considered* spews his brazen, unadulterated opinions like there's no Fran Lebowitz.

TERRY SOUTHERN

Flash and Filigree (1958)

Candy (1958) w/ Mason Hoffenberg

The Magic Christian (1959)

Dr. Strangelove (1964)

The Loved One (1965)

Red-Dirt Marijuana (1967)

Easy Rider (1969)

Paris post war lit. movement, Beats in Greenwich Village, Swinging London in the '60s, helped create the indie film movement of the '70s.

JOHN SWARTZWELDER

The Simpsons (1990-2003)

The Time Machine Did It (2004)

Double Wonderful (2005)

American comedy writer and novelist. Writer of the most *Simpsons* episodes (59 in total), some considered the best of the show. Wrote for *SNL* in

MUST-READS FOR CHRONIC CHORTLERS

the mid-'80s. Contributed to the short-lived magazine *Army Man*, edited by George Meyer who would help him join the original staff of *The Simpsons* in 1989. Contributed to *The Simpsons Movie* (2007). Retired and Began writing a series of self-published absurdist novels. Famously a reclusive and avid smoker.

JAMES THURBER

Is Sex Necessary? Or, Why You Feel the Way You Do (1929)
The Thurber Carnival (1945)
American cartoonist and humorist. Early and lifelong contributor to *The New Yorker*. One of the most famous humorists of his time.

JOHN KENNEDY TOOLE

A Confederacy of Dunces (1980)
American novelist who hailed from New Orleans, LA. Wrote two novels rejected for publication. These rejections led to paranoia and depression and ultimately to his suicide at age 31. *A Confederacy of Dunces* was published posthumously won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1981.

BRUCE VILANCH

The Paul Lynde Halloween Special (1976)
The Star Wars Holiday Special (1978)
Bruce!: My Adventures in the Skin Trade and Other Essays (2000)
It Seemed Like a Bad Idea at

the Time (2025)

Wrote some of the best terrible television shows known to man and was the head writer for the Oscars from 2000 to 2014.

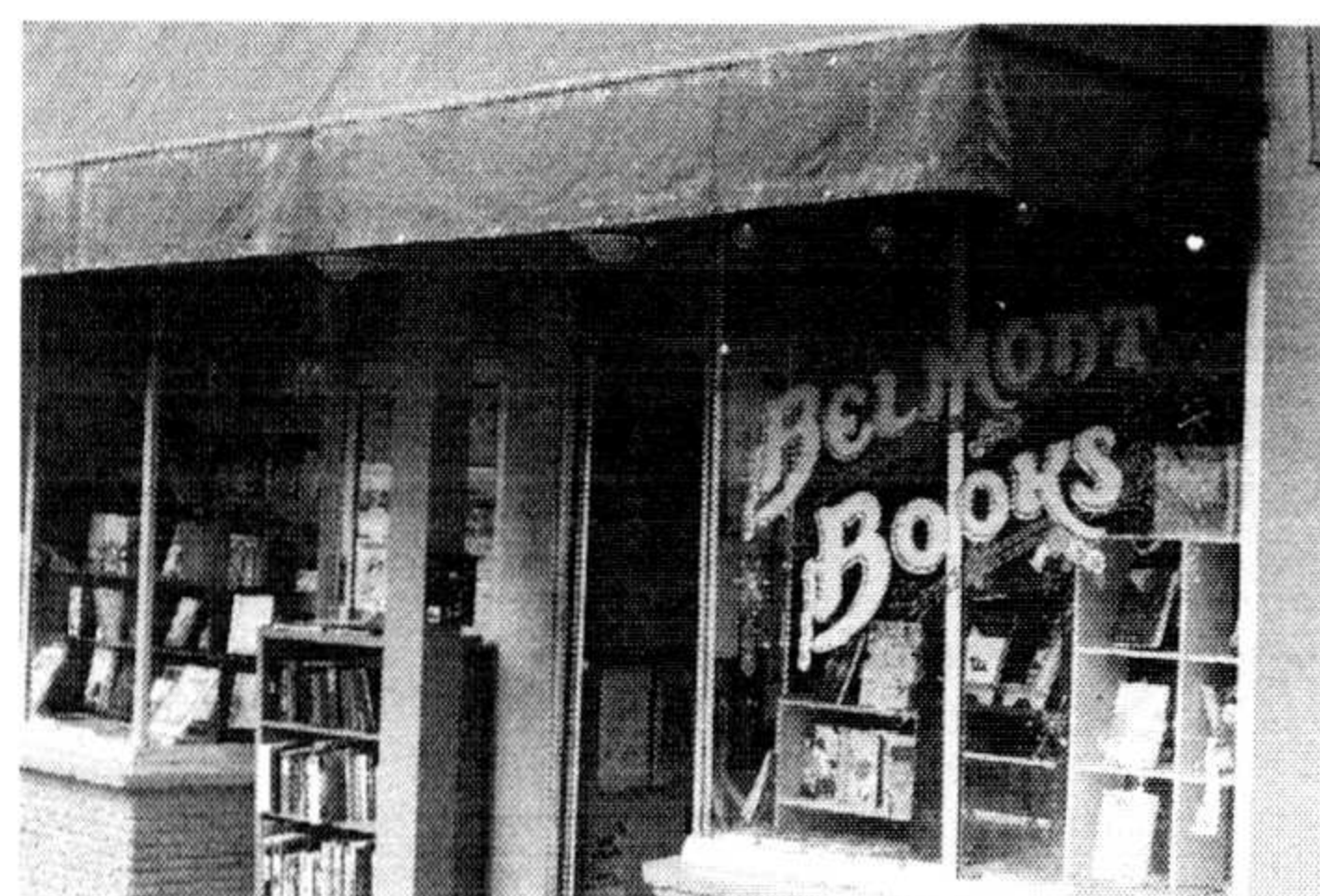
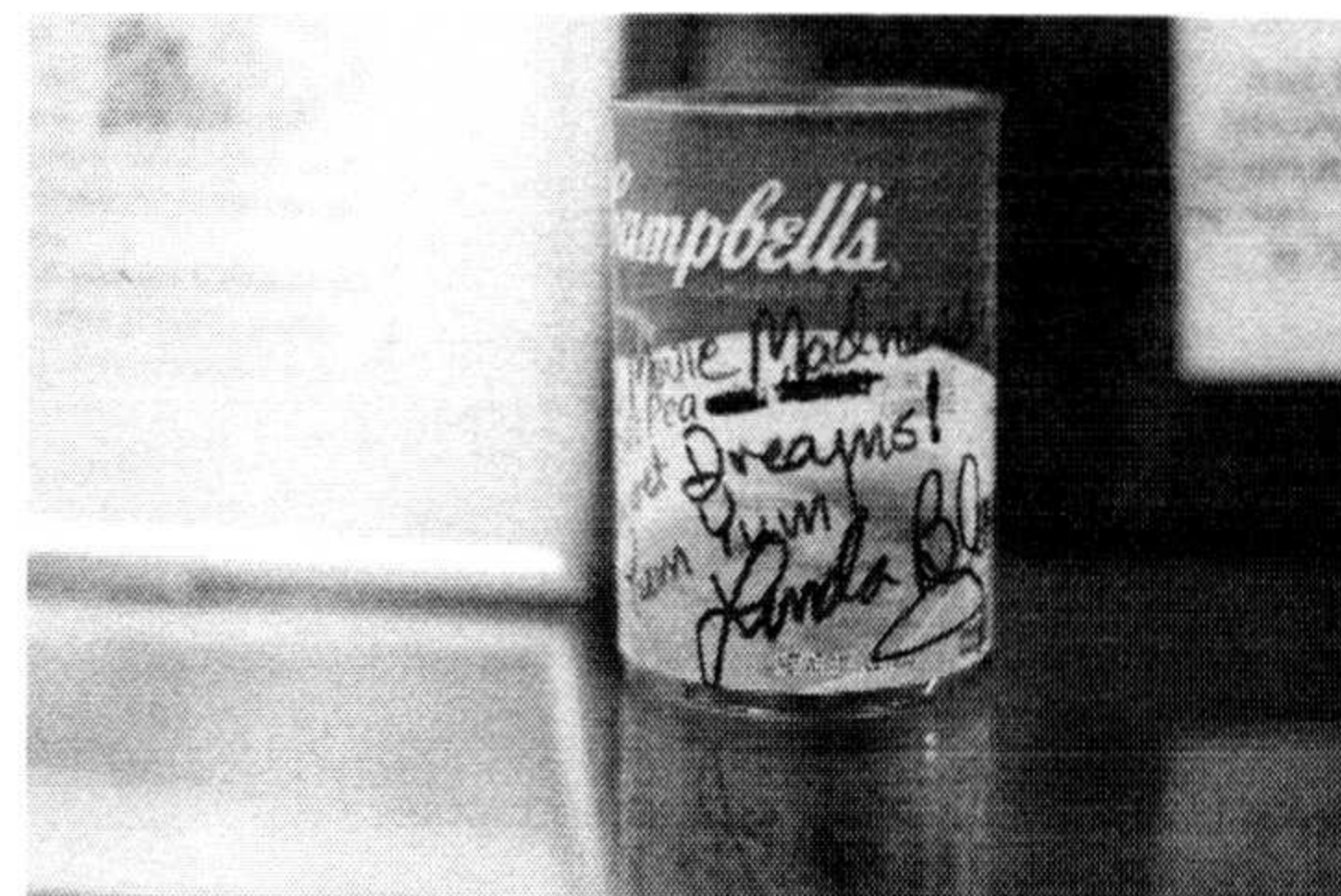
KURT VONNEGUT

Cat's Cradle (1963)
Welcome to the Monkey House (1968)
Slaughterhouse-Five (1969)
Breakfast of Champions (1973)
"Like Mark Twain, Mr. Vonnegut used humor to tackle the basic questions of human existence: Why are we in this world? Is there a presiding figure to make sense of all this, a god who in the end, despite making people suffer, wishes them well?"
-*New York Times*

JOHN WATERS

Multiple Maniacs (1970)
Pink Flamingos (1972)
Female Trouble (1974)
Hairspray (1988)
Cry-Baby (1990)
Shock Value (1981)
Crackpot (1986)
What else can be said about this filthy old man? He made a movie wherein Divine eats a dog's fecal matter. His legend has never ceased. His writing is gloriously off-kilter and endlessly Hilarious. Love this guy because he is an unabashed bibliophile with exceeding 8,000 books. The most sage advice he has for the human race is to not have sex with people who don't have or read books. Well, here are my recs. Worth the effort??

PHOTOS FROM TRIP TO PORTLAND, OR



FAVORITE COMEDY LPs

Great Phone Calls Featuring Neil Hamburger by Gregg Turkington

In his early 20s musician and budding comedian Gregg Turkington recorded a series of prank phone calls he made to personal ads, local SF pizza joints, and comedy clubs. It was in the latter case that the character Neil Hamburger, a painfully inept comedy upstart, was first heard. Best comedian working today.

The Ernie Kovacs Album by...Ernie Kovacs

The most comically spontaneous and experimental comedian working in early television, this album was ahead of its time and went on to influence everyone from Jim Henson, to Monty Python, Andy Kaufman, Pee-wee Herman, and *Mystery Science Theater 3000*.

Tears From a Glass Eye...With a Tongue of Madness by Brother Theodore

Described as "Boris Karloff, surrealist Salvador Dalí, Nijinsky and Red Skelton...simultaneously," German-born Theodore specialized in stream-of-consciousness monologues he dubbed "stand-up tragedy." Also voiced Gollum in the greatest film of all-time, *The Hobbit* (1977).

The World's Foremost Authority? by Professor Irwin Corey

"Corey is a cultural clown, a parody of literacy, a travesty of all that our civilization holds dear, and one of

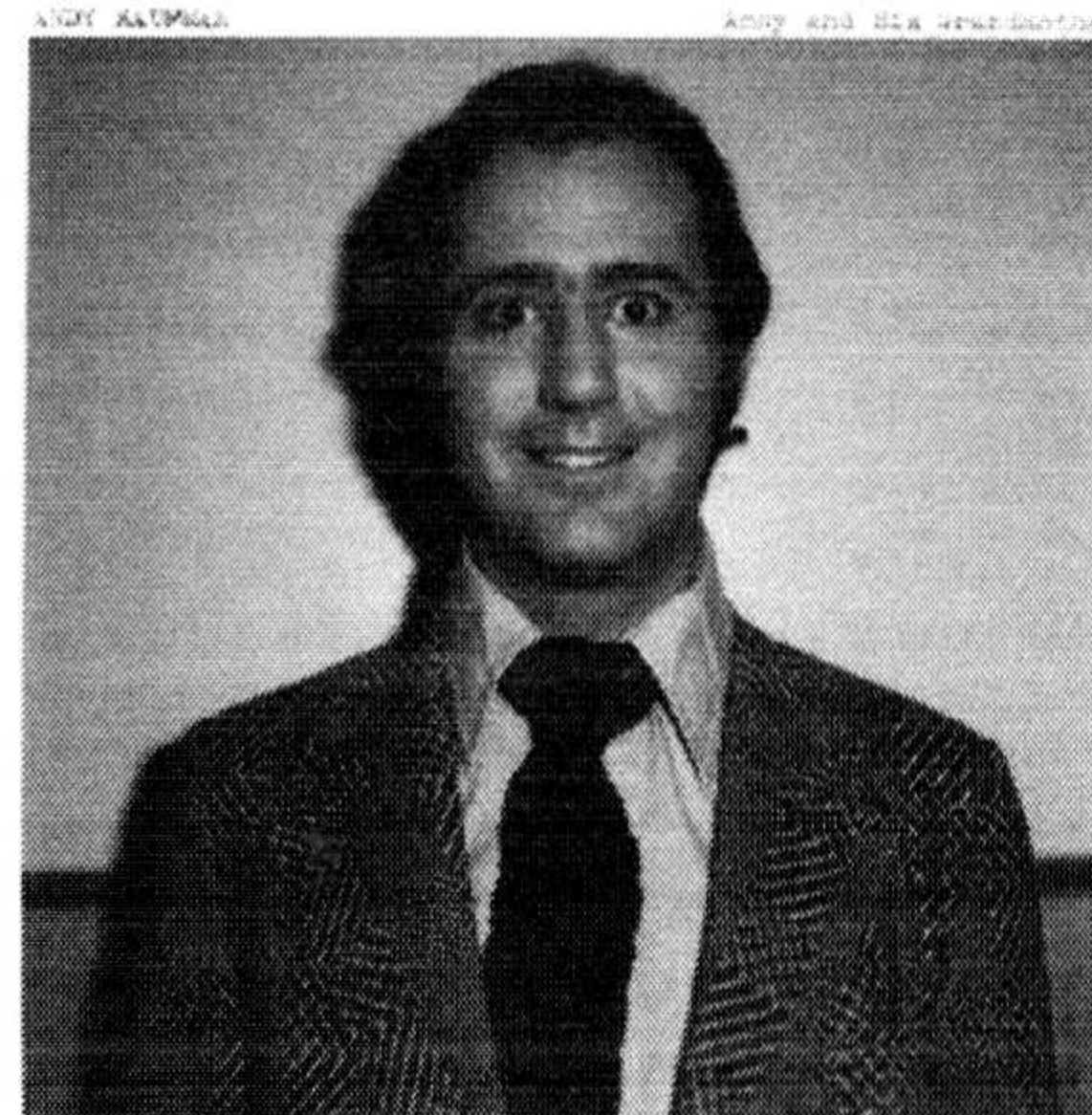
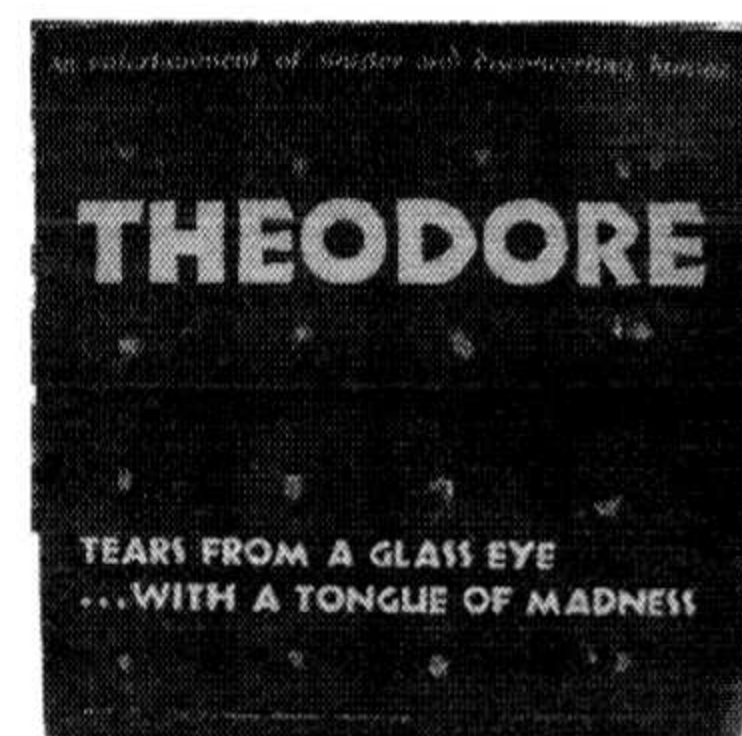
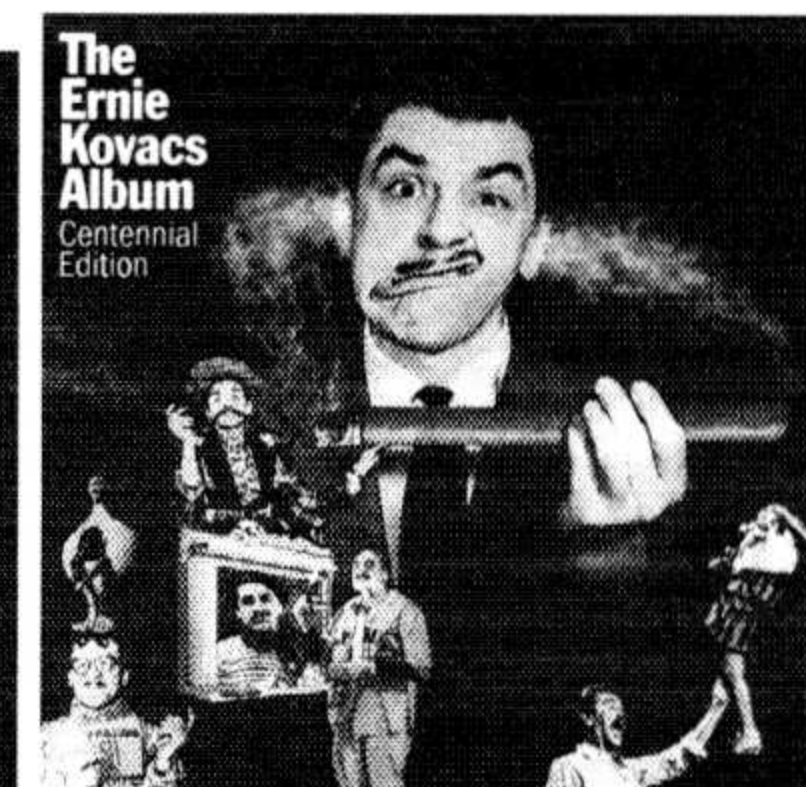
the funniest grotesques in America. He is Chaplin's tramp with a college education."

-Kenneth Tynan

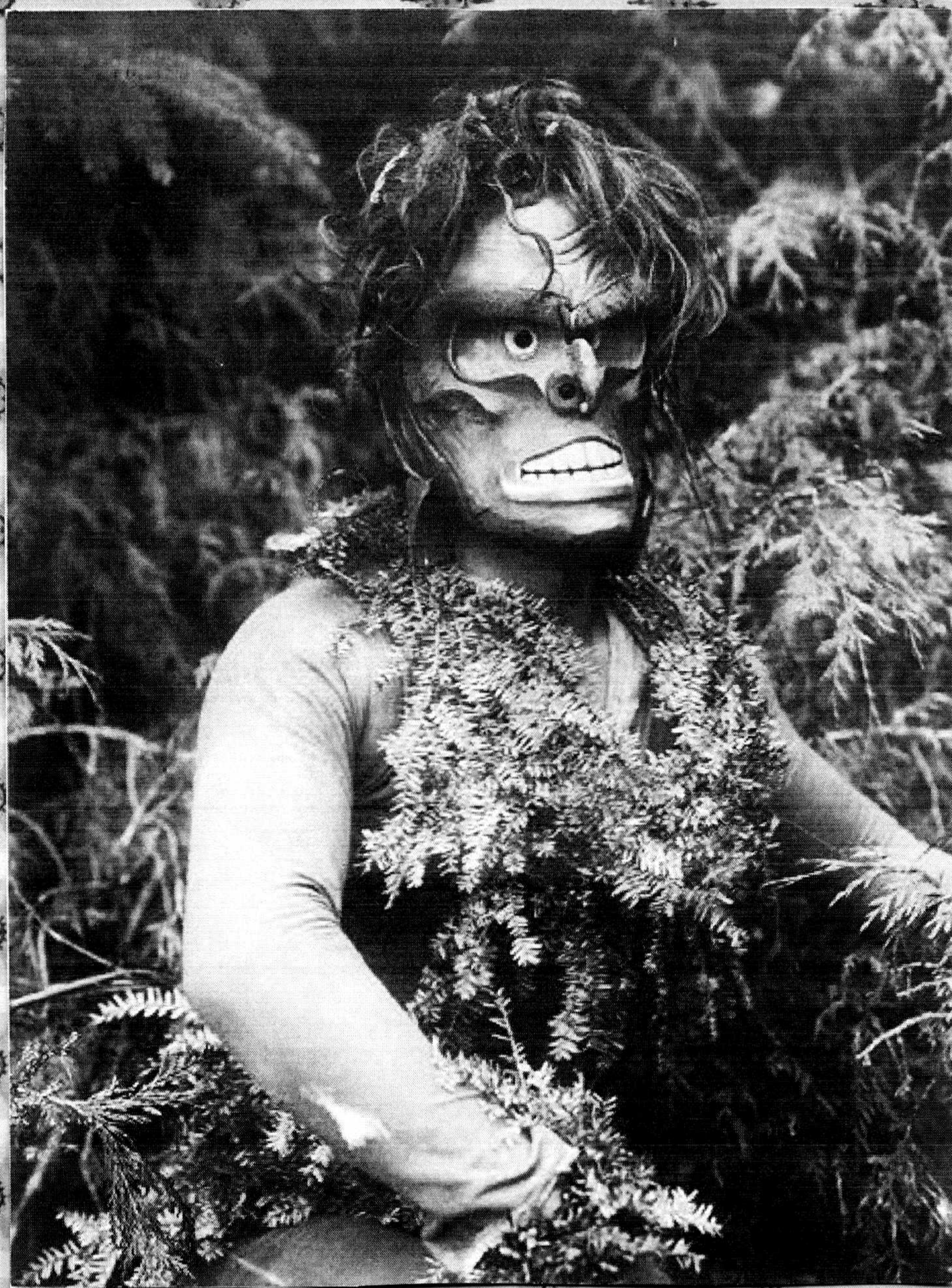
Andy and His Grandmother

by Andy Kaufman

Recorded from 1977-79 on microcassette, this off-kilter album was intended by Kaufman to belong in the same vein as Steve Allen and Jerry Lewis' prank call albums. Unearthed in 2013, comedian Vernon Chatman and narrator Bill Hader have fulfilled Kaufman's zany vision.



VANCE KIMBALL



This genial knave is a fanatic for long walks at night and peeping into the windows of houses he comes across on said walks. You'll know him by his three-foot tall powdered wig, atop which rests ever so daintily a fez the most devilish shade of scarlet. His breath smells of Durian fruit and old tennis shoes, Reeboks I've heard tell. When he isn't feverishly penning his fiendish and frenzied diatribes, Vance Kimball is employed as one of the few licensed massage therapists specializing in puppets and marionettes. He is an amateur Tiddylwinks sportsman, the reality of which has no bearing on the fact that he is also a horrid chess player. Kimball currently resides in Salt Lake City, Utah, the Rio de Janiero of the American Southwest. Nice weather he's having!